



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## New Zealand

## Biotechnology

## MAF Decision on GM Sweet Corn Seeds 2006

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**Report Highlights:**

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture (MAF) announced on December 11, 2006 that 3.22 of the 4.42 tons of sweet corn seeds, and resulting crops, mistakenly allowed into New Zealand will be destroyed. MAF has tested the other seeds three times and, as the test for GM seed has been negative, these seeds will be harvested. MAF claims that the seed was mistakenly imported due to incorrect documentation. It is not yet known if and how farmers who have their crops destroyed will be compensated. MAF has stated that it believes the company that exported the seed to New Zealand has a duty to ensure that seed containing GM content is not exported to New Zealand. MAF also stated that it has a duty to ensure that it does not knowingly import seeds into New Zealand with GM content. As a result of this incident, MAF has commissioned an independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the recent imports of sweet corn seeds. For more information see NZ6022, NZ6023, and <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/plants/genetically-modified-organisms/current-issues.htm>

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Wellington [NZ1]  
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